

Application No. 10/643,163  
Amendment dated Sept. 16, 2004  
Reply to Final Office Action of July 27, 2004

**Amendment to the Claims**

Claim 1 (cancelled)

Claim 2 (previously presented): The external rearview mirror assembly of Claim 10, wherein said carrier plate includes a plurality of adjacent cells configured to dampen vibration of the mirror assembly.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The external rearview mirror assembly of Claim 10, wherein the clamping recess is shaped complementary to the holder such that the holder grippingly protrudes into the clamping recess.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The external rearview mirror assembly of Claim 10, wherein the housing includes a peripheral rim configured to limit pivoting of the mirror assembly.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The external rearview mirror assembly of Claim 10, wherein the plurality of openings vary in diameter and in height.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A method for assembling a mirror assembly having a mirror element and a housing defining an interior therein, a rim, and a covering, the method comprising the steps of:

a) providing a carrier plate and located locating said carrier plate spaced apart from said rim and cover, said carrier plate having a plurality of openings therethrough and a transversely extending clamping recess thereon;

b) ~~clamping the clamping recess to a holder~~ providing a holder and clamping said clamping recess to said holder with said holder extending across and

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positioning the carrier plate in said spaced apart position;

- c) mounting a mirror adjustment assembly to the carrier plate; and
- d) mounting the mirror element to the mirror adjustment assembly.

Claim 7 (original): The method as in claim 6, wherein the step of mounting the mirror element is by one of a sliding attachment, a screw attachment, a snap-in attachment, a shape-fit attachment, a clamping attachment and combinations thereof.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The method as in Claim 6, including configuring the plurality of openings to dampen vibrations of the mirror assembly.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The method as in Claim 6, further including providing the housing defines a peripheral rim configured to limit pivoting of the mirror assembly.

Claim 10 (currently amended): An external rearview mirror assembly for a vehicle comprising:

- a housing defining an interior therein, a rim, and a covering;
- a holder depending through the housing into the interior, the holder configured for attachment to the vehicle;
- a carrier plate defining including a base portion with having a clamping recess thereon extending transversely thereover and a plurality of openings therethrough, the carrier plate being attachable within the interior by clamping the clamping recess to the holder, positioning the carrier plate in being arranged spaced apart position from the rim and the covering;

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a mirror adjustment assembly mountable to the carrier plate; and  
a mirror arrangement having a mirror glass extending substantially in a given  
plane, the mirror arrangement being mountable to one of the mirror adjustment  
assembly and the carrier plate wherein one of the housing, the carrier plate and  
combinations thereof are cooperable to provide structural support for at least one of the  
mirror adjustment assembly and the mirror arrangement.

Claim 11 (cancelled)

Claim 12 (previously presented): The external rearview mirror of Claim 10, wherein the  
mirror arrangement is mountable to one of the mirror adjustment assembly and carrier  
plate by one of a sliding attachment, a screw attachment, a snap-in attachment, a  
shape-fit attachment, a clamping attachment and combinations thereof.